

THE Hickman County GAZETTE

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75¢



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Students at Hickman County Elementary School participated in a fun Christmas musical program on Friday, Dec. 7. Performing during the program are (left) Hannah Pirtle, Garrett Ward, Micah Naranjo, Drew Davis, and Tori Lynn Browning. Photo Submitted

INSIDE



Fulton Co. ATC steering committee meeting pg. 7



Jr. High Falcons fall to S. Fulton pg. 7



Falcons take on Carlisle Co. pg. 7

Local Weather

Wed 12/12 52/29 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.

Thu 12/13 56/34 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.

Fri 12/14 57/45 More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 40s.

Sat 12/15 58/38 Showers. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.

Sun 12/16 52/32 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.

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Feral hog numbers reduced

Public urged to report sightings

BY Kenny E. Perry, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Feral hogs were released in western Kentucky in the mid 90's in the Dublin area of Graves County. They quickly migrated to the Murphy's Pond area which is now part of the Obion Creek State Nature Preserve.

Without hunting pressure and no natural predators, the population expanded and began to spill over onto adjacent farms.

Approximately 2 years ago, the population was estimated at roughly 1,500. As of December of 2012, that number has been significantly reduced.

About one year ago, numerous agencies began cooperating together to reduce this feral hog population including: KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, USDA -

Wildlife Services, the Fiscal Courts in Hickman, Graves and Carlisle Counties and the Hickman, Graves and Carlisle County Extension Offices and Ag Development Councils. Financial commitments from each of the fiscal courts, ag development councils and the Governor's Office of Ag Policy have allowed the project to progress.

Eradication efforts are typically more successful during the fall and winter months because food resources are scarcer. Crops, especially corn, provide ample food and cover during the summer and early fall. But as most of the crop is harvested and the weather gets colder, these feral swine have a more difficult time filling their stomachs. Bait sites placed in areas where feral hogs exist are visited much more frequently.

Another reason that feral hogs are

SEE HOGS, PAGE 2

Price give peak inside Ky. based novel

Charlotte Smith

If the name of the book "Widder's Landing" or the graphic photo on the front cover aren't enough to grab your attention to pick up Eddie Price's novel filled with rich Kentucky history, then maybe his appearance at Hickman County's Eighth Annual Arts, Crafts and Book Fair would do the trick. Traveling up and down the aisles of the fair, there were many inviting items and books to capture one's attention, but Price, dressed in clothing reminiscent of a time long ago when the Bluegrass state was shedding her pioneer heritage, pulled many in.

"Everyone was very friendly," stated Price. "Clinton really threw out the welcome mat! I had to sign seven copies of the book before I could raise the Acclaim Press Banner or spread the red-and-white checked table cloth to display the books."

Price, a life-long native of Kentucky, has taught history for 36 years, making him an ideal candidate to write a novel filled with many facts about the real life of a Kentuckian back in 1811. He is a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College (BA) and Western Kentucky

University (MA and Rank I) and has received many numerous teaching accolades.

His novel has been described as a non-stop adventure covering love, war, earthquakes and outlaws. Price "navigates his characters through natural and human-made disasters with passion and aplomb," states Neil Chethik, Director of the Carnegie Institute, Lexington, Ky., and author of *FatherLoss: How Sons Deal with the Deaths of Their Fathers*.

The main character of the story is Craig Ridgeway, a 21-year-old, who finds himself forced to relocate after losing his job. With no one hiring during trying economic times he leaves Pennsylvania behind riding a flatboat down the Ohio River and settles in Breckinridge County, Ky. As America is threatened during a time when money is scarce and businesses are failing, so to, is Mother Nature found to be unsettled.

Some of the events covered in Price's book include the following events: "A comet blazes a snow trail across one quarter of the sky. Passenger

SEE WIDDER'S LANDING, PAGE 8



WIDDER'S LANDING - Eddie Price, shown at his booth at the Eighth Annual Hickman County Arts, Crafts, and Book fair and dressed in pioneer attire, shows off his book to Charlotte Smith. Photo by Mary Potter

How will "Fiscal Cliff" affect Hickman County?

Daniel Richardson
danielrichardson@usit.net



With the back and forth that goes on in Washington, it's hard to tell where we will be financially as a nation just one month from now. If lawmakers don't come to some sort of agreement to balance our titanic budget, we will fall off of what is being called "the fiscal cliff." The phrase is used in reference to a series of predetermined tax hikes and spending cuts. Although these actions

only directly affect federal programs, one who thinks the impact isn't coming to Hickman County is sorely mistaken.

One thing that will take effect immediately is the end of the tax cuts implemented by President Bush. As a result, middle-income households will pay about \$2,000 in extra taxes in 2013. What will they get for that extra cost? Fewer benefits and emergency services.

"As far as local government services go, those that are most directly impacted in a small county and

SEE CLIFF, PAGE 2



HABITAT - Nicole Riddick, a partner with Habitat for Humanity works with Habitat volunteers Joe Crumble (front), Phillip McClure (middle), Royce Oliver (back), and Jimmy Lemons (in backhoe) as they prepare the foundation on her future home.



AWARD - The Hickman County Farm Bureau was recognized for outstanding membership and program achievement during the recent 93rd Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting in Louisville. Here, Steve Weatherford, center, accepts the award from David S. Beck, right, Kentucky Farm Bureau executive vice president, and John Sparrow, vice president, agency support and marketing of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, during a Dec. 7 recognition and awards program.

Yates sworn in as Hickman Circuit Clerk

Mary Potter

Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham held the bible as Hickman Circuit Judge Tim Langford administered the oath of office to Cinda Yates. The new clerk was sworn in as court workers, local attorneys, friends and those in court to do business on motion day looked on.

Yates, who won a primary in May 2012, was unopposed in the general

SEE YATES, PAGE 3



SWARING IN - Cinda Yates swears in as Hickman County Circuit Court Clerk as Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham holds the bible and Hickman Circuit Judge Tim Langford administers the oath. Photo by Mary Potter

*Continued***Cliff** From Pg. 1

community will be emergency services," said Hickman County Judge/Executive Greg Pruitt. According to Judge Pruitt, most of the impacts won't be immediate, but the ambulance service and health department will receive Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements that are significantly decreased and take longer to be received at the local level. Pruitt said that the county government

doesn't receive much financial assistance directly from the federal government, but state projects that are funded with federal money might be delayed, like the bridge replacement on State Route 1037. Local business will also suffer eventually, as families won't have enough money for restaurants or gifts. Sales will go down; all while the business themselves pay more in taxes.



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT - Workers attach a beam to the crane as they work on replacing the bridge on State Route 1037 in Clinton. If the federal government falls off the fiscal cliff, projects like this will be harder to come by.

Widder's Landing From Pg. 1

flocks blacked the countryside. The biggest earthquake in American history rends the landscape, destroying settlements, changing river courses, and ringing church bells hundred of miles from its epicenter. 'Brush arbor' preachers herald the 'end of time.' These strange events and more are featured during Ridgeway's journey aboard the flatboat down the Ohio.

After making his decision to settle in Breckenridge County, Ridgeway must decide on a different career path. According to the synopsis of the book, "an accident association with a notorious widow, named Widder, he inherits a patch of rich bottomland, embraces a nearby family, and falls in love with the abandoned wife of a violent outlaw."

As he does all this, Ridgeway has to learn to overcome inexperience and hardships will

building his new life learning how to raise corn, tobacco, and hemp. He also manufactures bourbon whiskey with his wife Mary inspired by a "Widder's" recipe. With a new economic era upon all of them with the development of the steamboat, things are going well for Ridgeway.

Unfortunately, as the tale continues, Ridgeway soon realizes his good fortune will come at a high price. Staying true to form with real historic events of the time, the looming war with Great Britain forces Ridgeway to make another hard choice. Will he risk everything he has worked hard for to fight on the northern frontier? Will the former Pennsylvanian join his fellow Kentuckians in the heroic defense of the New Orleans, leaving behind his wife, hoping to return home to her?

Many were stopping at Price's both back on December 1 in Clinton during the fair, including Cyndi Lynch, who purchased several of the books that have some readers describing it as containing "vivid descriptions drawing on all the senses and painting a vivid picture of a vivid time." Lynch, director of Columbus-Belmont State Park, purchased copies of the book for the park. (Her cousin, Mark Irby, is a long-time friend of Price and has even traveled all over the world with him on

my EF educational group tours.) Another reader uses one word to describe "Widder's Landing" as "epic, filled with rich historical detail, that easily drew this reader in, allowing me to contact solidly with the characters, feeling their struggles and triumphs."

So, if you didn't get a chance to stop by Price's booth, you will be elated to know that he will be back in the area in the spring, stating he would be happy to give a presentation on the history his book draws on during a Hickman County Historical Society meeting sometime in the spring.

Want a copy of the book Virginia G. Carter describes as a "banquet of first-person Kentucky history served up with plenty of first-rate adventure," visit www.acclaimpress.com, www.amazon.com, or www.barnesandnoble.com. The book is in its second printing at Acclaim Press.

"Two film corporations in California are looking at Widder's Landing," stated Price. "I will be presenting at the Michigan State Daughters of 1812, also the Arkansas and Indiana State groups."

"Several people from Hickman County have already read Widder's Landing," concluded Price, "and have written to say how much they liked it. It doesn't get much better than that!"

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gazette3322@bellsouth.net

District Court

Not an official court docket

The following cases were heard before the Hon. Hunter B. Whitesell II during Hickman County District Court on 12/10/12. This is not an official docket.

Jessa Alan Abeita. Review. Proof filed today.
Stephen A. Crittenton. Review. Continue one week for proof of drug screen.

Reginal Harper (date of birth 1962). Speeding 19 Mph. Over Limit. FTA. Failure to Produce Insurance Card. FTA.

Lora M. Lee. Promoting Contraband- 1st Degree. Controlled Substance Prescription Not in Original Container, 1st. Poss. Con't. Substance, 1st Degree, 2nd or > Off Drug Unsp. Not guilty plea entered. Preliminary hearing set for 12/17/12.

Joe D. Littleton. Speeding 16 mph. Over Limit. Amend to Speeding 15. Pleaded guilty. Previously paid in full.

Jimmy W. Lyles. Speeding 11 Mph. Over Limit. Issue OTSC for non-payment.

Phillip J. Morgan. Promoting Contraband- 1st Degree. Tampering With Physical Evidence. Pleaded not guilty. Preliminary hearing set for 12/17/12 at 10 a.m.

Travis M. Rice Jr. Speeding 19 Mph. Over

Limit. Co. Attorney continued for one week. Samantha L. Riley. Diversion Completion. Criminal Littering charge dismissed.

Tommy Sharpe. Fugitive From Another State-Warrant Required. Review continued to next week.

Gary Shields. Pretrial Conference. Driving On DUI Suspended License- 1st Offense. Amend to License to Be in Possession. Pleaded guilty. \$100 fine.

Douglas Eugene Smith. Sex Offender IM/CHAT/Social Network Use. Continued one week.

Patrick Snyder. Diversion completion. Criminal Littering charge dismissed.

Kayla C. Spencer. Diversion completion. Speeding charge dismissed.

Ricky Eugene Toon. Review. Issue Order to Show Cause.

Charles R. West. Diversion Completion. Speeding charge dismissed.

Jeff W. Carson. Preliminary Hearing continued to next week.

Furley Tarver. Preliminary Hearing. Failure to Comply w/Sex Offender Registration(2nd or >) Probable cause found. Bound over to next scheduled Grand Jury on 1/17/2013.

Hogs From Pg. 1

much more vulnerable during the fall and winter months is the lack of leaves on the trees and other thick vegetation. They can be seen for much longer distances on the ground and in the air. Increased visibility equals more elimination. But, if we don't know where they are, it's impossible to eradicate them.

The Obion Creek Feral Hog Control Project has been quite successful. Rough estimates suggest that the population has been reduced by approximately 75-80%. One of the greatest fears of the participants is that small satellite groups have left the core area and that they are increasing in population, unmolested. The project cooperators are asking that anyone who has knowledge of the presence of feral hogs in Graves, Hickman or Carlisle Counties to please contact your Extension Office or County Judge Executive's office.

I'm sure there are hunters out there that have captured pictures on their game cameras, farmers that saw pigs or pig sign in their fields at harvest or landowners who have seen feral hogs on their property. Please call the Graves County Extension Office (270- 247-





OPEN HOUSE



We cordially invite everyone to our
Open House event.
Please come join us for a
free fish lunch and to
view our new facility.
We will also have speakers here for a short after-lunch
program. Our work-in-progress is finally here
and we would like to have you here as our guest.
We look forward to serving the agricultural
community and hope to see you here!

Friday, Dec. 14, 2012
11:30 a.m. until ??

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Mike Allen, credit
Justin Clark, sales
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The Hickman County Gazette

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Editorial / Opinion



My View

By Dennis Richardson

Those college coaches

I am glad that the search for football coaches is over and both Tennessee and Kentucky seem to have hired improvements over the ones that they just let go.

Some will gripe about Tennessee's hiring of Butch Jones, citing he is one of the few coaches Derek Dooley beat in 2011. That is not quite comparing apples to apples. While Cincinnati has traditionally fielded tough teams, no one would compare the talent levels of the players to that of SEC talent.

Mark Stoops will bring a winning attitude to Kentucky. He comes from Florida State where he was defensive coordinator on a very good team. And he has already begun lining up his support staff, including fellow Seminole D.J. Elliott, who coached defensive ends.

Elsewhere in the SEC, Auburn hired Gus Malzahn from Arkansas State and Arkansas brought in Brett Bielema from Wisconsin. All in all it looks like the SEC will become even tougher.

At what cost?

It is reported Jones has a six-year \$18 million contract. Besides that amount, Jones' contract brings him \$500,000 for a National Championship, \$150,000 for an SEC Championship and \$50,000 for a top 25 finish.

At Kentucky, Stoops will receive at least \$10 million for five years, including \$400,000 base annual pay plus \$1.6 million to \$2 million in \$100,000 increments for the five years for endorsements, etc. Then there are bonuses written in ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000 each for such milestones as \$100,000 for each SEC win after the first one, \$100,000 for winning the SEC

East, \$200,000 for winning the SEC or reaching a BCS game. A National Championship brings in another \$200,000.

Both coaches will receive two cars and travel expenses.

What if the coaches do not perform? I would assume they still get their guarantees and a buyout of their contracts. That is a lot of money. A coach could flop the first season and still wind up with more money for doing nothing than the vast majority of people make in a lifetime.

It may be tough to hire a good coach under lesser incentive plans, but what if they were "guaranteed" a much smaller salary and then add the huge bonuses back in for performance levels. I just have trouble processing the fact that they are guaranteed many millions of dollars before they play their first game.

Maybe that is just me. I quickly admit that I just cannot fathom the pressures of big-time college football coaching.

But wouldn't it be refreshing for a prospective coach to display the kind of confidence it would take to say "Hey Mr. A.D., I will come coach your guys for \$100,000 a year base and \$500,000 for each SEC victory past the first one (plus the other bowl-type incentives typically offered, and ask for nothing more and leave quietly expecting no buyouts if I win no more than one SEC game)"

That way if they go 8-0 in the SEC (which means they win the SEC East) that would be \$3.6 million plus other incentives. That's a maximum outlay for a program that would immediately vault into the national limelight, fill the stands and sell more concessions and licensed apparel. If they go 1-7, if requested by the school, leave quietly.



Join us in celebrating the 90 birthday of Rupert (Bob) Samples



Reception at
Ruby Faye's Bar-B-Que Restaurant
155 US Highway 51 South
Clinton, KY 42031
(across from Hutson John Deere)
Sunday, December 23, 2012
2:00 – 4:00 PM
No Gifts Please

He will treasure your presence and reminiscing

Today was a "good silver" day at my house; i.e. a day when we brought out our brightest smiles, our best stories, and biggest hugs. Even my granddog, Bear, was feeling the love when I caught him successfully sneaking some roast beef and let him get by with it!

Good silver is a term I've been using for years to illustrate that we should remember to bring out our best for the every day people in our lives. I wrote about it last December and, after a day like today I want to talk about it again!

During holidays, we take a time out from life as usual to put all sorts of things on hold; worries about family or jobs, bills, even fatigue wears a joyful disguise. We become our "best" selves for the wonder and hope of Christmas. We make an effort to get some Christmas spirit, because it comes faster with each year.

We decorate our houses with lights, holly, wreaths, and trees. As we go about, we wear Christmas reds, greens, Santa hats, special ties, jewelry, and can even be heard to jingle from time to time. We play, sing, and listen to music of the season. We perform plays about mangers, baby Jesus, and a virgin mother named Mary. We cook turkey and dressing, ham, cakes, pies, boiled custard, casseroles, fruit salads, and finger foods. We give presents that cost money . . . lots of money and lots of presents.

As we say in the south we "put on the dog" by using our best dishes and the good silver because "company" is coming. Daily days have been tossed aside for a special day of celebration—the birth of Jesus. His birth is more than worthy to celebrate, but doesn't His birth and life raise questions about the behavior of real love?

Have you noticed that many times we are nicer to strangers than our family? They are the ones who take care of us when we are sick and work beside us when times are hard. These are the ones who see us when we wake up in the morning and then stumble into bed after a long, exhausting day of kids and work. These people love us when we are in a bad mood, depressed, fat, and in every way unloved and unlovable.

These people are our everyday family. They are the ones who deserve the very best of all we have, and all we are.

Why would I bring out my best only on special occasions; if I can't use the good silver for my family, why would I have silver at all?

As I sit here in the warm silence of my home tonight, I think of the Magi who were led by a star to the stable in Bethlehem where they worshiped the newborn King. They brought gold, incense, and myrrh; all very valuable in terms of the

world's wealth.

Yet, Jesus taught and consistently revealed to us that real wealth is of the spirit, and the actions of the spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I would say Jesus is teaching us about "the good silver".

If I only use the good silver (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc.) before others and neglect its use at home, it is the same as if I spoke to you of Jesus, but had no private and personal relationship with Him. That would be wrong, and it would not be honorable. So it would be if I projected to the world my good silver actions, but did not live them before the everyday people I love and with whom I share my life.

Michael and Bear came over today and brought my new laptop! I'm excited! He had it set up and ready to go. It has a webcam and all sorts of neat embedded tricks like a touch screen. We laughed making a silly video of ourselves and then we drew pictures on it! What fun! Then, my good friends, Deb and Tony, dropped in long enough for Deb to help me get set up for something you will be hearing about at the first of the year. When I wasn't looking, my son and Tony brought in the Christmas tree and all the decorations. Surprise!! Chase, my grandson, came in from work and started playing with the laptop. More fun and hysterics; boys will be boys.

We had a great dinner, played Christmas music, and decorated the tree. Time together . . . making memories using the "good silver". Somehow I got in a few phone calls to my cousin, my friend, Donna, my sister, my daughter-in-law, and even the eldest Strib in the family. I thanked God all day because "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights" James 1:17.

How I love the simple things of the good silver and the One who fills my life with the grace to recognize them. Tomorrow I will spend time with Ashley, my niece. Chase is asleep as I write. There are cakes to bake and my grandmother's boiled custard to make. There is work and classes. It is a busy week. I think of you every day and pray for us all. I imagine your life and know that we all have daily days that are hard. So let's drink deeply of the good silver times when all is well and love is given and received abundantly.

Until next week . . . in courage, my friend.

If you have any comments, questions, or stories, please email me at bethamonett@gmail.com , or friend me on Facebook! You can never have too many friends.

Kettle drive update: Two weeks to go

Rev. Charles Blair

Had you heard that in a northeastern town, a merchant actually called the police to stop an army bell-ringer from setting up in his area, calling it a "nuisance"? Aren't we grateful for people like Bobby Perkins and Greg Godby, who not only are pleased to have the kettles, but help in so many ways with them? Several local merchants and professional people give of their time and money to assure the annual success of this on-

going ministry. All who ring and all who give are appreciated, from the large check to the youngster who struggles to put a handful of coins in the slot and then delights to ring the bell" for a moment.

As reported earlier, the pace of giving got off to a slow start, but with your help in these next two weekends we can still reach our minimum \$2,000 goal. As we've reported before, 80% of all received during this drive stays in Hickman County and has helped nearly

a hundred families annually for the last 16 years in various ways - emergency medical aid, sometimes actual food, often needed school items. Assistance is not given in cash, and we don't buy toys - there are sources for that. But the biggest limit on giving is the total number of dollars you, the people of Hickman County, are able to give. Thank you! from your Country Service Unit of The Salvation Army.

Yates From Pg. 1

in the judicial system." He said that few will have contact with the circuit judge and even fewer with an appeals court judge. But "everyone comes in contact with

the clerk" and it is the clerk and staff that create an impression on the community.

Yates would officially take office on January 7th. However,

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Judge Langford chose to swear her in because her predecessor is retiring by January 1st. The Judge said that it would be necessary to appoint someone to fill that time and grinning, he asked Yates "Now who would that be?" Circuit clerks in Kentucky are elected for six year terms. In order to qualify to run for circuit clerk, applicants must take a rigorous examination. Then they run for the office.

Among the many duties of the circuit clerk is the filing and recording of all court documents, recording hearings and trials, preparing dockets, contact potential jurors to name just a few of their duties. They also issue driver's licenses and oversee driver license testing.

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Community News

Area Obituary

Joan Whayne

Joan Butterworth Whayne, 87, died Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012.

She is survived by two daughters, Lynn Whayne Graff of Apache Junction, Ariz. and Laura L. Whayne of Lexington, Ky. and sister-in-law, Mary Lee Roberts of Clinton.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Harry U. Whayne, Jr.

Services will be held in Lexington, with burial in Oakwood Cemetery in Hickman County.

Memorials may be made to Oakwood Cemetery.



Department of Revenue sets 2013-2014 Homestead Exemption

The maximum homestead exemption on real estate owned by qualified persons has been set at \$36,000 for the 2013 and 2014 tax periods. The 2013-2014 exemption reflects a \$2,000 increase over the 2011-2012 exemption of \$34,000.

The amount of the homestead exemption is adjusted every two years in accordance with KRS 132.810 to compensate for changes in the purchasing power of the dollar. The exemption provided state and local property tax savings of approximately \$171 million for more than 416,000 elderly or disabled



Hickman Co. Clerk's office to be closed Dec. 29

The Hickman County Clerk's Office will be open Saturday, Dec. 15 and closed Dec. 29.

A Very Merry Merry Christmas to all of you.



Drug Court Relay For Life chili supper will be December 15

The Hickman County Drug Court will have a Relay For Life Chili supper on Saturday, Dec. 15 at Young Center in Clinton. The supper will be from 5 - 7 p.m. \$5 a plate which includes Chili, sandwich, dessert and drink.

MALONE - Thank you so much for the concern and kindness shown to me during the illness and loss of my Daddy, Joe C. "Jody" Malone. He always enjoyed hearing about the mail route goings-on - As much as you all mean to me, you also meant a lot to Daddy. God bless each of you.

Gail McClure

SENIOR CHATTER With Tammy

Do you like to play billiards? Well, the senior center is having two tournaments which are the 8-Ball and the Short Rack Bank this Thursday at 3 p.m. If you want to participate the entry fee is \$5 per tournament. We are so blessed to have the facilities to put on such a great event. You just show up and you can play! The winner will receive a trophy and bragging rights!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my kitchen staff, Jetty Dixon/Food Manager and Amy Fuller/Cook, for keeping our kitchen highly efficient and scoring a 100% on our health inspection! It is a blessing to have such great workers!

We are taking orders for our Christmas pie fundraiser. We have an order sheet at our reception desk and we distributed the order sheets last week. Each pie will be \$10 and they are all homemade! You can buy someone a gift certificate for a pie, as well. Pie pickup will be Friday, December 21st between 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

We have a lot of interest in our new workout facility.

Come by and purchase a membership to our workout facility for someone on your Christmas list for \$20 unlimited a month or buy a whole year for \$200 (a \$40 discount). It is so exciting to see more and more people joining our workout facility. We invite you to bring a friend. The first time is free and each additional time during your first month is \$3. Once you join the fee is only \$20 per month and we will be offering aerobics in the beginning of January. If you want to add aerobics to your workout the cost will be \$30 for unlimited usage of our workout facility and aerobics two times a week

If you want to sign up to go to our tour the lights at Noble Park in Paducah just come on by and we will be glad to take you. We are so excited about going out to eat and then driving through the park and seeing the beautiful Christmas lights! Also, some seniors have expressed an interest in going to the Market House Theatre to watch A Christmas Story at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to go to this production, the cost is \$19. We would be more than happy to take you. We are leaving for our outing on Friday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.

We still have open spots to rent our building for the holiday! Our building rental is \$50 with a \$25 cleaning fee. The cleaning fee is returned if you leave the building in good condition. We appreciate your support.

The following is our activity schedule:
Wednesday, Dec. 12 - 9:30-

appreciation men's breakfast. 10 a.m.-Canasta players. 10:30 a.m.-B/P clinic/lifeline-Melinda. 11:30 a.m.-Stroke awareness. 1 p.m.-card games, safety for Seniors/Mark Green & Chad Frizzell.

Thursday, Dec. 13-10 a.m.-Christmas shopping & lunch
Hearth Restaurant. 2:30-Board meeting. 6 p.m.-card play

Friday, Dec. 14-toenail clipping/Dr. Slatick. 12-Marge & Friends/Christmas sing along. 1:30 p.m.-local shopping. 4 p.m.-Christmas Light tour.

Monday, Dec. 17- 10 a.m.-exchange holiday recipes.

Tuesday, Dec. 18- 10:30 a.m. -holiday tasting/UK/Extension Office/Lisa Adams. 1 p.m.-Jingle Bingo.

Our menu for Dec. 12 - Dec. 18 is as follows:

Wednesday, Dec. 12-
Hamburger on wheat bun, relish plate, pork & beans, baked potato, margarine cup, sour cream packet, banana and skim milk.

Thursday, Dec. 13-
Italian baked chicken, pasta salad, whole wheat roll, margarine cup, peas, peaches and skim milk.

Friday, Dec. 14-
Beef vegetable soup, egg salad sandwich, crackers, frozen fruit salad, raisins, peanuts and skim milk.

Monday, Dec. 17-
Chicken cacciatori, spaghetti noodles, green beans, whole wheat roll, margarine, ice cream and skim milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 18-
Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, baby lima beans, whole wheat roll, margarine, fruit and skim milk.

Second Baptist News

By Cynthia Walton

We have been having some wonderful services with the Lord working in wondrous ways. Wednesday night we had three join our church-two by letter and one for baptism.

On Sunday night Bro. Dustin baptized four people after he preached from Acts 8 about Phillip baptizing the eunuch after he was saved.

Upcoming events are; caroling on Dec. 19 at 6 p.m., ladies' Christmas party on Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m., Christmas breakfast on Dec. 23 at 9 a.m., children's Christmas program on Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. and Watch Night service on Dec. 31 at 8 p.m.

Happy birthday to Jr. Quillen on Dec. 21, David Ferguson on Dec. 24 and Stella Mathis on Dec. 28. Happy belated anniversary

greetings to Supreme and Johnnie Riggs.

On our prayer list were Robert Hall, Shirley West, Jack Acree family, Carolyn Burpo, Bro. Rocky James, the Cannon brothers, Shirley Wooten, Jean Anderson, Bubba Milton's grandchildren, Kyle Holmes, Ruth Jewell, Wilma King, Jackie Ballard, Helen Holmes, Austin Upshaw, Mildred Morrison, Josephine Shadwick, Josh Harpole and yours truly.

"But how can they call on Him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about Him?" (Romans 10:14). Let's all tell someone about Jesus this week. Jesus loves you and so do we at Second Baptist Church.

The Wilderness Voice

By Pastor Tom Hoskins

You know the slogan; Jesus is the reason for the season. The advent is the event, but in a sense Jesus doesn't need promoting. He is God, Emmanuel (Mt. 1:20). That doesn't mean we should not bear witness to his saving grace. Could we think rather of the advent this way? Mankind is the reason for the season: Here it is from the very lips of our Lord. "I am come that they might have life, and

that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The incarnation was for salvation—yours and mine.

So this Christmas, for a time at least, forget the crowds, the chatter, the traffic and the twinkling lights and remember, He did it all for me. I was the reason He came. Such reflection should cause us to do as the wise men, they "fell down and worshipped Him" (Mt. 2:11).

Area Announcements

The Mission House distributes CSFP (Cheese) Commodities monthly to Hickman County residents who are 60 years or over, meet the income guidelines, and are pre-registered. Pick up dates are Thursday & Friday after the third Tuesday of each month.

Every Monday:

- AA meets at 8 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Clinton.

First Monday:

- Masonic Lodge 131 F&AM meets the first Monday night of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Second Monday:

- Library Board meets the second Monday at the library at 4.

- The Hickman Co. Arts Council** meets at 4 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at the Young Center. The public is invited to attend. www.hickmanarts.com.

Every Wednesday:

- 7 a.m.- Community Prayer Service at First United Methodist Church.

Every Wednesday and Saturday:

- The Hickman Co. Historical and Genealogical**

Pecan production is the ultimate exercise in patience

By Kenny E. Perry, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

As previously mentioned in this space, 2012 appears to have been an excellent year for fruit and nut production. Pecan trees produced as large of a crop as anyone can remember. Many of those trees have already dropped the majority of their nuts while others are still holding on to theirs. Pecan production is largely an exercise in patience, taking several years to grow the tree large enough to produce nuts.

Precocity is a term used in pecan breeding that refers to the amount of time it takes a variety to begin nut bearing. A seedling tree, which is simply a tree that originates from planting a pecan, may take 15-20 years to begin bearing nuts. A grafted tree is when wood from an older tree is grafted onto the rootstock of an established tree. Depending on the variety, grafted trees can begin producing nuts as early as 5 years after grafting.

A few words of caution: when choosing a variety, bigger is not always better. Trees that produce big pecans may fill poorly as they get older and their flavor is not usually as good. Many western Kentuckians

would much rather have the smaller nuts off of the native or seedling trees. However, as a good friend of mine said, "you could starve yourself to death trying to get enough nuts to eat from these small nuts". Also, you will need two varieties that pollinate each other or another tree in close proximity to ensure production.

Finally, in a home environment, select for disease and insect resistance first. Pick varieties that are resistant to pecan scab disease and phylloxera, an aphid-like insect.

If you're fortunate enough to have some seedling pecan trees growing around your house or farm, you can get nut production faster by grafting

onto that tree. One of the quicker producing varieties, Kanza, can begin bearing regular crops in 4-5 years. Kanza is a USDA release from a cross between Major and Shoshoni. Although this nut is not overly large, averaging about 70 per pound, the flavor is outstanding and it cracks easily.

If you want to or have to start producing pecans from scratch, buy some seedling trees from the KY Division of Forestry, (270) 247-3913, and plant them in the spring.

You'll need to let them grow for 2-4 years before grafting onto them. The general rule of thumb is that you want at least two feet of new growth in a season before grafting. So, the more care you give them, the faster you'll be able to graft and get closer to having homegrown pecans.

A few words of caution: when choosing a variety, bigger is not always better. Trees that produce big pecans may fill poorly as they get older and their flavor is not usually as good. Many western Kentuckians

would much rather have the smaller nuts off of the native or seedling trees. However, as a good friend of mine said, "you could starve yourself to death trying to get enough nuts to eat from these small nuts". Also, you will need two varieties that pollinate each other or another tree in close proximity to ensure production.

Finally, in a home environment, select for disease and insect resistance first. Pick varieties that are resistant to pecan scab disease and phylloxera, an aphid-like insect.

For more information on pecans consult UK publication ID-77 or call the Hickman County Extension Office at 653-2231.



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NOTICE

The storage rooms at Eastside Mini Storage belonging to the following people are considered abandoned and will be sold in 30 days.

Charles Johnson
Brad West
Clarence Miner
Patrick Snyder
Tamara Gawsse
Johnnie Mason

NOTICE is hereby given that Anita J. Bugg, Cynthia M. Davis and Elizabeth J. Holder have duly qualified as Executrix of the estate of William Aaron Bugg, deceased. All persons indebted to said estate shall pay all indebtedness promptly, and all persons having claims against said estate shall present same, properly certified according to law, within six (6) months of this notice to: Anita J. Bugg

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Civil War Christmas Ball will be December 15 at Columbus Park

There will be a Civil War Christmas Ball held in the Conference Center at Columbus-Belmont State Park on Dec. 15 at 7:00 p.m. The dance is sponsored by the Friends of Columbus-Belmont and the KY Orphan Co. The Josh Coffey Band of Paducah, KY will play period music and finger foods will be provided. Period attire is encouraged, but not required. The cost for the ball is \$10 per person.

Danny Kelly will be offering carriage rides from 4-6 p.m. and

Financial Aid Tip of the Month, December 2012

High school seniors should pay attention to application deadlines for college admissions and financial aid. Here are some tips from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA):

If you have not yet chosen a college, narrow your list by visiting schools, comparing colleges online and talking with your counselor and your parents.

Talk with teachers about writing recommendations for you. It is also time to complete your admissions essay if you need to write one.

Check with the financial aid offices of the schools to which you've applied to determine if they require any financial aid forms other than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Familiarize yourself with the FAFSA. Unless you are starting college before July 1, you cannot file the FAFSA until after the first of the

year. But you should still take a look at the information it requires and make plans to attend a College Goal Sunday session near you. Your counselor should have information about College Goal Sunday.

Attend any college fairs and financial aid seminars offered at your high school or in your area. If a company charges a fee for helping with applications, remember that

you can do that yourself for free. If you decide to pay for help, make sure the company is reputable by checking with the state Attorney General's office or Better Business Bureau in your area, as well as the area where the firm is located.

To find links to other useful education websites, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926, ext. 6-7372.



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Assistance available for area veterans

Veterans and their families will be provided counseling and assistance in filing claims for state and federal benefits. This is a free service provided by the state of Kentucky. For more information please contact Ron McClure, Regional Field Representative, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) at (270) 247-2455 ext. 73905.

Schedule for period of December 17, 2012, through January 1, 2013.

The office will be CLOSED these two weeks and will re-open on Wednesday, January 2, 2013.

To Schedule an Appointment: Visit the VA Clinic

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HICKMAN CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-CI-00070

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By virtue of a Final Judgment and Order of Sale entered November 1, 2012, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the Courthouse door in Clinton, Hickman County, Kentucky, to the highest bidder at public auction on the 20th day of December, 2012, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the following described property:

636 STATE ROUTE 58 EAST, CLINTON, KENTUCKY 42031

TRACT NO. 1: Being a part of the southeast quarter of Section 9 T 2 R 2 West, and beginning at the northwest corner of a lot of land owned by Ronald R. Williams and wife (purchased from Farbier Armbruster) being a point on the south right-of-way of State Highway No. 58; thence West with said right-of-way line 100 feet to a stake; thence South 400 feet; thence East 100 feet to the southwest corner of the Williams tract; thence North with the west line of the Williams tract 400 feet to the beginning.

TRACT NO. 2: Being part of the southeast quarter of Section 9 T 2 R 2 West and beginning at the northeast corner of the tract of land conveyed to Farbier Armbruster and wife by Bowden Eugene Armbruster and wife, see Deed book 68, Page 210, this being the northeast corner of the tract of land hereby conveyed and corner with Eastep and on the south side of Highway No. 58; thence West with the south right-of-way line of said Highway 100 feet to a stake; thence south 400 feet to a stake; thence East 100 feet to a stake on the Eastep line; thence North with the Eastep west line to the beginning 400 feet.

Being the same property conveyed to David R. McNeely, a single person, by Quitclaim Deed dated February 21, 2005 in Deed Book 112, Page 622 in the Office of the Hickman County Court Clerks.

The property will be sold under the following terms and conditions:

1. That the real property shall be sold as a whole as above-described to the highest and best bidder or bidders as a whole for CASH; or in the alternative, the Master Commissioner will take from the purchaser(s) one-third of the purchase price in cash together with bonds (for the remainder of the purchase price) in two equal installments with good and sufficient surety, bearing interest at the rate of 12 percent (12%) from the day of sale, due thirty (30) days post sale and payable to the Master Commissioner.

2. In the event the Plaintiff is the successful purchaser, it shall be entitled to a credit of its judgment against the purchase price and shall only be obligated to pay court costs, the fees and costs of the Master Commissioner and any real estate taxes payable pursuant to this Order.

3. The bond shall have the same force and effect as a Judgment and shall remain, and be a lien on the real property until the purchase price, plus interest and costs, are fully paid.

4. The property shall be sold free and clear of all taxes, except the purchaser will assume payment of 2012 ad valorem taxes, and all subsequent years.

5. The Master Commissioner will retain a lien on said property to secure payment of said bond, if issued.

This sale may be concealed, and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein.

The undersigned commissioner does not have access to the inside of the above mentioned properties.

DATED the 28th day of November, 2012.


THOMAS H. BUGG, MASTER COMMISSIONER
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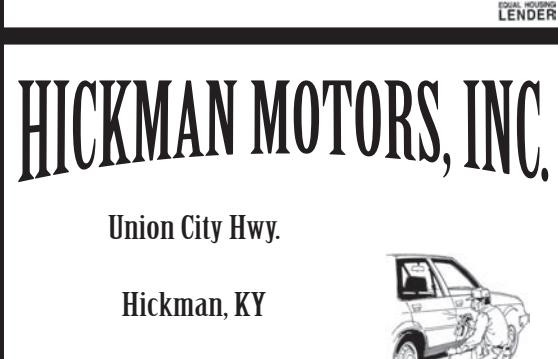


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Fulton and Hickman Counties Church Page

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BAPTIST

BEULAH BAPTIST
Hwy. 307 N., Beulah, KY

CAYCE BAPTIST
State Route 94 W., Cayce, KY

CLINTON PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Circle Road, Clinton, KY

COLUMBUS BAPTIST
Columbus, KY

CRUTCHFIELD BAPTIST
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EAST HICKMAN BAPTIST
1522 Liberty St., Hickman, KY 270-236-2300

FIRST BAPTIST
205 E. Moulton St., Hickman, KY 270-236-2424

FIRST BAPTIST
320 Mayfield Rd., Clinton, KY 270-653-4304

GREEN VALLEY BAPTIST
406 Blair St., Clinton, KY 270-653-4645

JOHNSON CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
Holly St., Hickman, KY 270-236-2434

LAKE CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
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LIBERTY BAPTIST
Middle Road., Fulton, KY

MIDWAY BAPTIST
1273 Midway Rd., Hickman, KY 270-236-2838

MOSCOW BAPTIST
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MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH
6914 State Route 94 E., Fulton, KY 270-472-0965

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Hwy. 307 S., Clinton, KY

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METHODIST

BEECH GROVE UNITED METHODIST
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CAYCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
195 State Route 94 W, Cayce, KY 270-838-6882

CRUTCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST
Depot St., Crutchfield, KY

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210 S. Washington St., Clinton, KY 270-653-3241

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200 Carr St., Fulton, KY 270-472-3514

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
105 Wellington, Hickman, KY 270-236-2305

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1738 State Route 1708 E., Clinton, KY 270-653-2128

OAKWOOD UNITED METHODIST
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RUSH CREEK UNITED METHODIST
Rush Creek Road, Hickman, KY

SHILOH UNITED METHODIST
Shiloh Church Rd., off Hwy. 288, Clinton, KY

THOMAS CHAPEL CME METHODIST
1207 S. 7th St., Hickman, KY 270-236-9538

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
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OTHER

CHURCH OF CHRIST HOLINESS 1406 Nelson St., Hickman, KY

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH 206 James H. Phillips Dr., Clinton, KY

JACKSON'S CHAPEL 51 Jackson Rd., Clinton, KY 270-653-2299

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SCHOOL

Fulton County ATC receives high praise

Charlotte Smith

Last Thursday the Fulton County Area Technology Center (ATC) held their annual steering committee meeting and it definitely looks like they are heading in the right direction. The ATC, which offers a variety of programs and certifications for students from Fulton County, Hickman County and Fulton Independent schools, received a 3.98 rating out of 4 on their recent team program assessment. Listening to the students describe their experiences in the classes they have taken and how it has impacted their lives, it is evident that the ATC deserves the 3.98 rating they received.

Drew Worley, Cannon Ferguson, Summer Stewart, and Marianna Harris have all taken classes in the Health Science field and all feel it has been a worthwhile experience, especially Stewart, a senior at Fulton High School. "It was a great experience," stated Stewart. "I worked with a real patient and the medical field is definitely a career I am interested in."

Worley, a junior at Fulton County High School, might not be headed in the same direction as Stewart, but is enjoying the scientific part of the classes. "These classes have helped me in my

other classes and I think it is a great program," he added.

Last year 14 young women passed their clinicals and this year, ATC Principal Tom Pyron predicts there will be more, including a young man or two.

Information Technology is all about web design and computer maintenance. Jessica Mathews, Masi Heintz, and Zach Gilbert talked about making 20 gobble baskets for Thanksgiving and preparing computers for Christmas for underprivileged students. Both Mathews and Gilbert said their involvement in these classes and Mathews as FBLA president has made them more outgoing and more comfortable talking in front of a crowd. Heintz is taking the networking class and is involved in wiring the carpentry house. She is also treasurer of FBLA and is learning to manage money for the club.

Heintz, along with JaMaal Crumble and Amy Langford are taking business classes, including Accounting and Intro to Computers. "It is more than just learning to type," explained Langford. "I know how to use Excel and word programs," she said. "I have learned a lot."

Taking this class will provide them with the

SEE ATC, PAGE 8



ATC STUDENTS OF THE MONTH - Clayton Bradshaw (left) of Hickman Co. was named the Machine Tool Technology student of the month at the Fulton Co. ATC for December. The December Student of the Month at the Fulton Co. ATC for the Automotive Technology department is Dylan Burgess (right) of Hickman Co.

Falcons, Lady Falcons fall to Carlisle County

Makenna LeBlanc
Sports writer

On Friday, Dec. 7, the Falcons traveled to Carlisle County to face their rival, the Comets. The visitors' side was filled with cheering Falcon fans ready for action, and action is what they got. The junior varsity players had a successful night. They dominated the Lady Comets with ease. The teams were tied up for the majority of the game, and the Falcons persevered and came out on top with a score of 44-42. Good defense by the Falcons contributed to this win.

The Lady Falcons took the court next, knowing it would be a tough game. The Comets were ahead the whole game, but leadership from Seniors Samantha McClain and Kennady Yarbro kept the team's spirits high, and they put up a good fight.

The final game for the night was between the Varsity Falcons and Varsity Comets. Tensions were high in the gym, and the cheering sections were wild! The game started out with a lead from the Falcons, but the Comets quickly caught up. The lead went back and forth between the two opposing teams, but the Falcons boys started to accept defeat in the second half. The Comets won by a 12 point margin. The final

score for the game was 63-51. The Falcons' star player Eric Kerney was on his game that night, scoring 18 points for his team. When asked how he thought the game went, starter Ryan Harpole said, "I feel pretty good about our performance. We didn't give up. We still have

some things to work on before we play them again at home."

The Falcons' game tonight, Dec. 11, at Fulton County has been cancelled due to illness. This is looking like a great season for the Hickman County Falcons and Lady Falcons.



JUMP - The Falcons' Billy Speed goes up against the Comets' Marcus Burnett for the ball Friday night, Dec. 7, at the Falcons vs. Comets game.



SPIRIT - The student section was packed at the Falcons vs. Comets game on Friday, Dec. 7. Way to show school spirit!

Red Devils prove too much for Falcons

Jessica Cooley

defense was looking good against South Fulton's offense.

"They need to improve on their passing mostly," said manager Charles Mockins.

Austin Cantrell scored the last

points in the game with a two-point layup. The Falcons upset with the loss, and they will be working hard for a win in their next game.



PASS - Hickman County's Bobby Guess attempts to pass around a South Fulton defender during last Monday night's loss.



MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY - Damien Fulcher and Ricky Bagley from Fulton County and Clayton Bradshaw from Hickman County talk about the Machine Tool Technology classes. Bradshaw, being a golfer, made a couple of putters while in the class.

Lady Falcons fall to Devilettes

Jessica Cooley
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On December 3rd, The Jr. Lady Falcons faced off against the South Fulton Devilettes. The game began with Erica Kerney's two points and soon after, another two points. Although, no points followed until twenty two seconds were left in the first quarter when Latavia Thomas scored two

baskets. In the second quarter, the Lady Falcons made a comeback. This began at the 5:22 mark when Sarah Gardner made an awesome block against a South Fulton player's pass-off. Soon followed by Alexis Burpo with six great baskets, and Ally Samuels with two. At half time the score was 13-16 us. Right out of the half, Erica Kerney scored a three point basket. She was fouled on another basket and was able to hit both free throw shots. After these points were made, South Fulton

came back with a vengeance. Throughout the game, the Lady Falcons had played a full-court press. Now it was turned into a Double Press. Towards the end of the fourth quarter, Latavia Thomas scored two baskets. The last basket of the night was made by Sarah Gardner. "Over all, I think I did okay. I definitely need to improve on ball handling," Sarah Shares, "This is the best season I've had in my four years, and it's so much fun!" the final score of the night was 40-36, Devilettes.



FIGHT FOR THE BALL - Jr. Lady Falcon Jasmine Myatt goes to the floor for the ball during last Monday's loss to the South Fulton Jr. High Devilettes.

GOOD LUCK FALCONS!

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PASS - Hickman County's Bobby Guess attempts to pass around a South Fulton defender during last Monday night's loss.

Kentucky 2012 farm cash receipts on track to break \$5 billion

Kenny Perry, Ag Agent for Graves County

Preliminary U.S. Department of Agriculture reports indicate Kentucky agricultural cash receipts for January through September totaled \$3.6 billion, 10 percent higher than 2011's record level for the same period. Despite weather impacts on yield and high feed costs, agricultural economists with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture foresee 2012's cash receipts in the state will total \$5.3 billion.

Will Snell, Kenny Burdine, Cory Walters and Tim Woods, all from UK's Department of Agricultural Economics, along with Kentucky Farm Business Management Program coordinator Jerry Pierce and Jeff Stringer from the UK Department of Forestry presented a 2013 Kentucky farm economic outlook and an overview of 2012 as part of the annual Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation conference in Louisville on Dec. 6.

Official USDA 2012 cash receipts for Kentucky won't be released until summer 2013, but Snell said the UK economists are seeing high returns in corn, cattle and tobacco and improvement in the equine sector. The typical range for net farm

income in Kentucky is between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion.

"Boosted by significant crop insurance payments, net farm income for 2012 will be toward the high end of that range, but well below the \$2.1 billion record high achieved in 2005 following the tobacco buyout," he said.

In the midst of one of the nation's worst droughts, the USDA is projecting U.S. net farm income for 2012 to remain near record levels at \$114 billion, just 3 percent below the previous record set in 2011.

Snell noted that export value remained near record levels in 2012.

"Just as in 2011, high prices were very effective in offsetting lower volume, a slight appreciation of the U.S. dollar and weak global economic growth," he said.

"Responding to higher prices, producers planted additional acres this year, which helped keep production from going lower," Walters said. Walters said there would be fewer ending stocks, especially for corn and soybeans, approaching the upcoming planting season, and prices will continue to be strong, providing incentive for growers to produce more.

"A normal or better growing season coupled with increased planted acreage will put heavy downward pressure on prices," he said. "Alternatively, a poor growing season will result in a repeat of 2012 price action."

"Based on the world burley supply/demand balance entering 2012, it was apparent that tobacco companies were going to request that Kentucky burley farmers increase acreage. It was not clear, however, how farmers would respond," he said.

Farmers responded by planting 14 percent more acres. Tobacco yielded fairly well, in spite of the drought, and curing conditions led to one of the better quality crops in recent years, Snell said.

Kentucky is the leading producer of hardwood saw and veneer logs in the South and in the top three nationally. A total of 596 million board feet were produced from Kentucky's forests in 2012. The value of all delivered round wood for 2012 is estimated at \$182.9 million and reflects a reduction in cash receipts for woodland owners in 2012.

"I believe that, in 2013, hardwood lumber production and its associated industries will halt the declines we've seen over the past several

years," said Stringer. "Modest increases in housing starts may forecast an eventual uptick in hardwood lumber production next year, but don't expect an increase in employment yet. Even with the tough markets in 2012, Kentucky's forestry sector, including wood and paper producers, was able to contribute an estimated \$6.3 billion of direct revenue to the state's economy."

On the whole, the UK agricultural economists were guardedly optimistic about 2013. They predict that relatively strong prices, increased crop acres and global demand will enable Kentucky agricultural cash receipts to continue to grow to between \$5.4 to \$5.6 billion.

"Our main concern is what will happen when approximately 15 to 20 percent of our current net farm income disappears with the tobacco buyout payments ending in 2014 and the likely elimination of direct payments," Snell said. "Kentucky agriculture will have to make up approximately \$200 million in losses in the marketplace, which will put more pressure on growth in local food markets and expansion in exports."

ATC From Pg. 1

chance to earn a certificate in IC3. Crumble is enjoying the accounting class and is glad that he has the opportunity to use it as his fourth math class that he needs to graduate and also for college credit, as a dual credit course.

Heintz also talked about their involvement in the Senior Focus class at Fulton County and the activities they have participated in, including College Application Week and Career Week. "We applied to as many college as we could think of," she said. "During Career Week we heard from different professionals in the community."

Justin Jackson, from Hickman County, and Judd Malone, from Fulton County, are both enjoying the basics of auto mechanics in the Auto Technology program. "We are learning how to change tires to how to rebuild an engine," said Malone. Malone is the President of Skills USA.

"We have been involved in many projects," stated Jackson. "We are building a 69 Chevelle from the chassis up and can do front end alignments."

Toyota has even donated two engines and a couple of cars for them to work on.

In Machine Tool Technology students have the opportunity to acquire the skills to thread metal and Clayton Bradshaw, a senior at Hickman County High

School, has also made a couple of golf putters. Rickly Bagley explained the process in great detail how to thread a piece of metal and Damien Fulcher, now in his third year at the ATC, wants to become a welder. "I could get a job working down in the Gulf, under water, making up to \$200 an hour," said Fulcher. Other businesses in the area that need welders are Ingram Barge and James Marine. The students take on line tests and they can also work to become NIMS (National Institute Machining Skills) certified.

Carpentry teacher Ronnie Harper was praised by Ladarian Polk, a senior at Fulton County, who has placed second in the regional carpentry contest. Polk recently joined the Army and will be a combat engineer. "Taking these classes has helped me do projects people appreciate, learn skills I can use in my career, and have the desire to learn from a teacher like Mr. Harper," stated Polk. "I have learned a lot."

Others taking advantage of the skills learned in the carpentry program are Grant Wiley who has helped for the last four years on the houses they build that later go to a family that needs it and Chad Robertson from Fulton High School. Robertson, who works at Builder's Supply, uses the skills he has learned at class when at work.

"These programs are making

a connection between what the students are learning now and carrying it over to use later in life," added Pyron. "Valuable skills equal money." Goals of the ATC include

- Increase the percentage of preparatory students who are career ready

- Collaborate with feeder schools, particularly Guidance Counselors, to increase the number of students who reach preparatory status in each program

- Develop technical tasks and projects that align with the Common Core Standards and the Common Career and Technical Core in each of their programs. Through West Kentucky Community and Technical College students from these three area schools are paying only \$50 a semester for two classes. Those costs have been covered by the creation of the Four Rivers Foundation and Robbie Rudolph.

"This semester 138 ATC students are receiving 378 hours of college credit," noted Pyron. "That equals \$52,920 worth of college savings."

"Nobody does dual college credit like western Kentucky," stated Lisa Stephenson with West Kentucky Community and Technical College. "Our mission is 'Pathways and Partnerships,'" she said. "We want to increase pathways and enhance partnerships. We want

to make it work for the students and the community."

Senator Ken Winters, a longtime advocate for education, was introduced as a Kentucky Tech Partner by Pyron, recognized for his commitment to the programs offered at the ATC. "When the nursing program was in jeopardy," Pyron said, "Senator Winters went to bat for us and helped us keep the program

alive."

"Best recruiter for students

is other students," said Senator Winters. "Students should

inspire other students to attend

the ATC."

Senator Winters also

complimented Pyron and his

staff on the appearance of the

ATC. "The environment looks

great," he said. He also noted

the lack of National Board

Certified (NBC) teachers

(Fulton County now has four NBC teachers) and the shortage for college students wanting to become teachers. "There will be monumental changes in the next couple of years in these schools," Senator Winters stated. Winters, who is retiring at the end of the year, will be replaced by Senator Elect Stan Humphries.



Senator Ken Winters (left) talks with Hickman County Judge Executive Greg Pruitt and Hickman County Superintendent of Schools Kenny Wilson at the Fulton County Area Technical Center during their annual steering committee meeting.



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